

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are cancelled. Claims 17-31 are new, but no new subject matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-31 is requested in light of the following remarks.

In the Specification

The abstract is amended to eliminate references to "embodiments" of the invention.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 1 is objected to, apparently because the word "a" does not appear before the term "decoder units" in line 6 of the claim. The applicant submits that the word "a" is not required before "decoder units" because "decoder units" implies plural units, rather than a single unit. In this case, it would not be proper English to recite "a decoder units." Thus, the "decoder units" that first appear at line 6 are similar to the "level shifters" that first appear at line 7.

Claim 2 is amended to properly depend from claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-16 are allowed.

Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New Claims 17-31

New claim 17 is written in independent form, and contains the features of original claim 1 and original claim 4. New claim 18 is written to depend from claim 17, and contains the features of original claim 2. New claim 19 is written to depend from claim 17, and contains the features of original claim 3. New claim 20 is written to depend from claim 17, and contains the features of original claim 7. New claim 21 is written to depend from claim 17, and contains the features of original claim 8. New claim 22 is written to depend from claim 17, and contains the features of original claim 9. New claim 23 is written to depend from claim 22, and contains the features of original claim 10. Claims 18-23 are allowable at least because of their dependence upon claim 17, which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter (subject matter of original claim 4).

New claim 24 is written in independent form, and contains the features of original claim 5 and original claim 1. New claim 25 is written to depend from claim 25, and contains the features of original claim 6. New claim 26 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 2. New claim 27 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 3. New claim 28 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 7. New claim 29 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 8. New claim 30 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 9. New claim 31 is written to depend from claim 24, and contains the features of original claim 10. Claims 25-31 are allowable at least because of their dependence upon claim 24, which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter (subject matter of original claim 5).

Claim Rejections

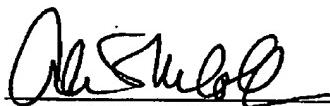
Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,594 to Kwon ("Kwon"). Claims 1-10 are cancelled.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-31 is requested. Please telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

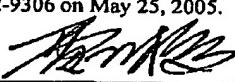
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